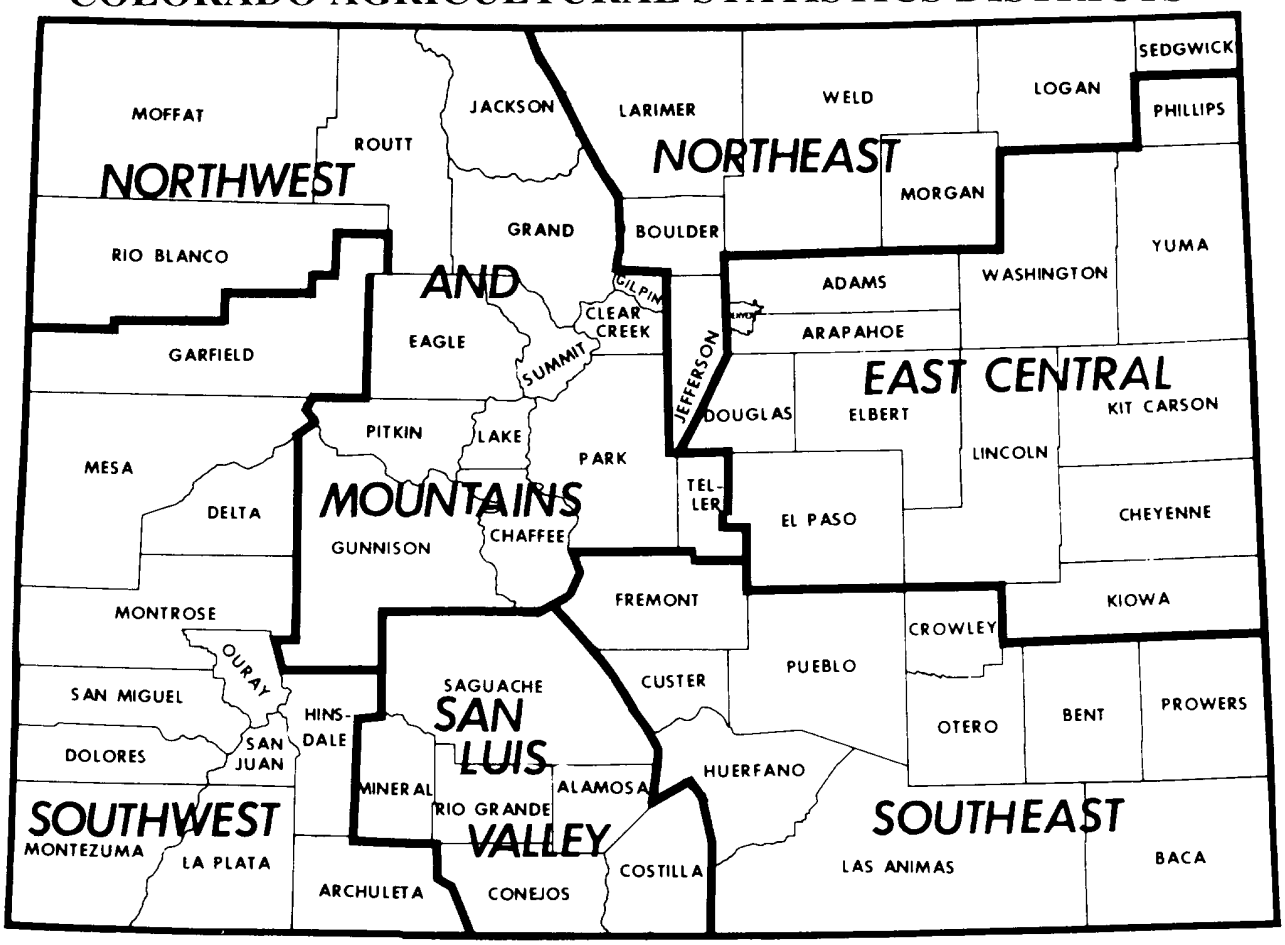
COLORADO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS 1999

Includes

ANNUAL REPORT
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FISCAL YEAR 1998-99

COLORADO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS



ASD by Number: Northwest and Mountains = 10; Northeast = 20; East Central = 60; Southwest = 70; San Luis Valley = 80; Southeast = 90

COLORADO

The Centennial State, admitted to the Union in 1876, is the eighth largest state in area and has the highest average elevation. The highest point is at Mount Elbert, 14,433 feet above sea level, one of the 53 "fourteeners" rising above 14,000 feet. The lowest elevation is 3,350 feet in extreme eastern Prowers County.

Approximate Land Area: 66.3 Million Acres *
Approximate Cropland Area: 10.5 Million Acres *
Approximate Irrigated Area: 3.4 Million Acres *
Number of Farms and Ranches (1998): 29,500
Land in Farms and Ranches (1998): 32.2 Million Acres
Average Size of Farm and Ranch (1998): 1,092 Acres

Farms by Type *

82%	Individual
10%	Partnership
7%	Corporate
1%	Other

Farms By Tenure *

58%	Full Owners
30%	Part Owners
12%	Tenants

Farms By Class *

57%	Livestock & Poultry
43%	Crops

* 1997 Federal Census of Agriculture

Farm Marketing Receipts (1997):	$ 4,214.9	Million
Livestock & Livestock Products:	$ 2,874.7	Million (68.2% of the total)
Field, Fruit, & Vegetable Crops:	$ 1,340.2	Million (31.8% of the total)

COLORADO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

1998 Preliminary - 1997 Revised

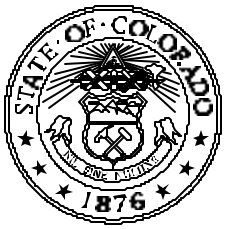
and

Annual Report 1998-99
Colorado Department of Agriculture

Issued Cooperatively By

National **A**gricultural **S**tatistics **S**ervice

DONALD M. BAY, Administrator



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DON AMENT, Commissioner

Prepared and Published by

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special appreciation for funding the color cover on this publication and contributing to the "Colorado Wheat Story" on pages 4 and 5 is extended to:

COLORADO WHEAT ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
7700 E Arapahoe Rd Suite 220 Englewood, Colorado 80112
Phone: (303) 721-3300 FAX: (303) 721-7555

Larry Palser, President
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July 1999 **Price $10.00**

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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July, 1999

Dear Friends,

Thank you for helping make the Colorado Agricultural Statistics book possible. I want the citizens of this state to know who we are and how vital our industry is to this state's economic and cultural fabric. This book shows how much you give to this state, the nation and the world.

While Colorado's economy has been booming, the agricultural industry has been struggling economically and is under extreme pressure by well-intentioned environmental advocates. This state's high quality environment is as important, if not more important, to farmers and ranchers as it is to those who live in the city. All of us want to preserve our natural resources, especially those who depend on them for their livelihood. I am working for reasonable environmental protection measures that do not impose an undue hardship on the very industry that provides the wildlife habitat and resource stewardship that are so critical to our future quality of life.

With the number of people in farming and ranching decreasing, our voice is harder to hear. I am asking each and every one of you to take the time out of your busy days to speak on behalf of agriculture to your state representatives and senators and every one else who will listen. Only together will they hear our voice and give us an opportunity to help shape the future.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture's Annual Report, outlining the department's responsibilities, activities and services is in the back of this book. Some of the agriculture department's hot issues this fiscal year have been: regulation of swine production, state land stewardship trust, world trade, public lands grazing, the Food Quality Protection Act, animal diseases, animal cruelty, noxious weed management, risk-based inspection, pricing and scanning accuracy, information technology and Colorado Peak Performance. Please take a minute to read about our challenges and progress. You are always welcome to call us at 1-800-886-7683 and give us your comments.

Thank you for supporting Colorado's agricultural industry.

Sincerely,

Don Ament

Don Ament
Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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July 1999

On behalf of the Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service I am proud to present "*Colorado Agricultural Statistics 1999*". This publication which tells the story of the importance of the agricultural industry in Colorado is produced through a formal cooperative agreement between the Colorado Department of Agriculture and USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. This cooperation between these two State and Federal agencies has provided agricultural decision makers in Colorado with timely, accurate, and unbiased agricultural statistics continuously for the past 80 years.

"*Colorado Agricultural Statistics 1999*" is especially meaningful to me in that it not only represents 80 years of cooperation between USDA and the Colorado Department of Agriculture, but it also caps my 36 year career as an agricultural statistician. For the past 13 years, I have been privileged to serve Colorado's farmers and ranchers, agri-businesses, and agricultural decision makers as your State Statistician. On October 1, 1999, I will officially retire from USDA, but plan to continue to be involved in the agricultural industry in some way.

I have been privileged over the past 13 years to meet many of the thousands of Colorado farmers and ranchers who have helped make this publication possible by providing information on the agricultural surveys conducted by the Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service. A special thanks to each of you who help us provide this important information to agricultural producers, agri-businesses, policy makers, and the public so that sound business and policy decisions can be made based on the real facts rather than speculation and rumors. A special thanks also is extended to the many important agricultural organizations in the State who continually strive to improve the information flow to producers and policy makers. Those of us who have chosen agriculture as our life's vocation will continue to be challenged to tell the *"real story about Agriculture"*. We need more than ever to be equipped with timely, unbiased and accurate information.

Special thanks this year is extended to the Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee who have helped sponsor this year's publication. It has been an honor and genuine pleasure to work with all of you during my career.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Hudson

Charles A. Hudson
State Statistician

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rank in Agriculture: Colorado's rank among states, 1998

Commodity	Unit	Colorado		Leading State		United States total
		Rank	Production	State	Production	
FIELD CROPS:						
Barley	1,000 bu.	6	9,430	North Dakota	106,150	352,445
Beans, dry edible	1,000 cwt.	4	2,868	North Dakota	9,798	30,828
Corn, grain	1,000 bu.	13	155,150	Iowa	1,769,000	9,761,085
Corn, silage	1,000 tons	12	2,400	Wisconsin	10,585	94,525
Hay, all	1,000 tons	13	4,602	South Dakota	8,160	151,338
Hay, alfalfa	1,000 tons	10	3,402	California	6,630	82,010
Hay, other	1,000 tons	23	1,200	Missouri, Texas	6,240	69,328
Oats	1,000 bu.	19	1,750	North Dakota	26,040	167,122
Potatoes, all	1,000 cwt.	5	27,948	Idaho	139,650	477,754
Potatoes, fall	1,000 cwt.	6	25,360	Idaho	139,650	434,368
Potatoes, summer	1,000 cwt.	2	2,588	Texas	3,116	18,896
Rye	1,000 bu.	20	84	North Dakota	2,196	11,795
Sorghum, grain	1,000 bu.	6	10,545	Kansas	264,000	519,933
Sorghum, silage	1,000 tons	6	143	Kansas	1,200	3,487
Sugar beets	1,000 tons	7	1,301	Minnesota	9,710	32,660
Sunflowers, all	1,000 lbs.	4	173,650	North Dakota	2,972,800	5,246,701
Sunflowers, oil varieties	1,000 lbs.	4	124,200	North Dakota	2,433,200	4,459,054
Sunflowers, non-oil varieties	1,000 lbs.	3	49,450	North Dakota	539,600	787,647
Wheat, all 1/	1,000 bu.	8	103,710	Kansas	494,900	2,550,383
Wheat, spring 2/	1,000 bu.	8	4,260	North Dakota	211,200	528,709
Wheat, winter	1,000 bu.	5	99,450	Kansas	494,900	1,880,605
VEGETABLES: 3/						
Cabbage	1,000 cwt.	8	920	California	4,900	24,196
Cantaloupe	1,000 cwt.	6	304	California	13,860	22,626
Carrots	1,000 cwt.	3	1,600	California	29,843	37,549
Corn, sweet	1,000 cwt.	5	1,104	Florida	5,642	24,798
Cucumbers (P)	Tons	10	1,440	Michigan	143,000	615,310
Lettuce	1,000 cwt.	3	864	California	44,730	65,525
Onions (storage only)	1,000 cwt.	4	6,080	California	16,192	65,131
Spinach	1,000 cwt.	4	95	California	2,400	2,980
FRUITS:						
Apples	Mil lbs.	13	65	Washington	6,000	10,944
Cherries, tart	Mil lbs.	8	1.3	Michigan	263	349
Peaches	Mil lbs.	10	20	California	1,752	2,426
Pears	Tons	7	3,500	Washington	365,000	926,240
LIVESTOCK: 4/						
All cattle & calves	1,000 head	10	3,150	Texas	14,000	98,522
All cows 5/	1,000 head	17	910	Texas	5,870	42,615
Beef cows 5/	1,000 head	14	827	Texas	5,530	33,472
Milk cows 5/	1,000 head	29	83	California	1,440	9,143
Milk production, 1998	Mil lbs.	21	1,689	California	27,607	157,441
Calf crop, 1998	1,000 head	16	850	Texas	5,250	38,582
Cattle on feed 6/	1,000 head	4	1,160	Texas	2,730	13,214
Fed cattle marketings 7/	1,000 head	4	2,560	Texas	6,060	26,670
All sheep & lambs	1,000 head	4	440	Texas	1,350	7,238
Breeding sheep & lambs	1,000 head	9	220	Texas	1,050	5,314
Lamb crop, 1998	1,000 head	8	220	Texas	800	5,013
Market sheep & lambs	1,000 head	3	220	California	420	1,923
Wool production, 1998	1,000 lbs.	5	3,364	Texas	9,230	49,239
All hogs & pigs	1,000 head	14	870	Iowa	15,300	62,156
Pig crop, 1998	1,000 head	11	2,452	North Carolina	18,728	104,981
All chickens	1,000 head	26	4,597	Ohio	37,410	424,094
All layers	1,000 head	23	3,737	Ohio	28,507	320,694
Egg production, 1998	Million	22	945	Ohio	7,395	79,717
MISCELLANEOUS:						
Farms, 1998	Number	30	29,500	Texas	226,000	2,191,510
Land in farms	1,000 acres	11	32,200	Texas	131,500	953,765
Average size of farm	Acres	9	1,092	Wyoming	3,760	435

1/ Includes Durum wheat. 2/ Excludes Durum wheat. 3/ Fresh market except where noted as processing (P).
4/ Inventory January 1, 1999 for cattle and sheep; December 1, 1998 for hogs and chickens. 5/ Cows and heifers that have calved.
6/ As of 1/1/99. 7/ 13 major feeding states.

Making a World of Difference for Colorado Wheat Growers

Finding and keeping domestic and export markets for wheat is critical to the prosperity of Colorado's wheat industry. Colorado wheat production averaged 84.8 million bushels between 1989-98; about 80 percent of that wheat was exported overseas.

These exports did not happen by themselves. They resulted, in large part, from efforts designed to develop, maintain and increase export sales. Much of this work is performed by the Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee (CWAC).

CWAC is a marketing order funded by a producer-approved assessment of one cent per bushel. The funds from this assessment support education, research and promotional programs designed to increase the consumption and utilization of Colorado wheat. Many of these programs deal with domestic and export promotion. Some examples of these domestic and export initiatives include the following:

- Membership in U.S. Wheat Associates (USWA) to conduct specific export promotion and foreign market development programs on behalf of Colorado and U.S. wheat producers. Exports accounted for 45 percent of total wheat usage in the 1997-98, marketing year, and was responsible for $1.85 per bushel of the national average price of $3.38 per bushel. In addition, CWAC works directly with USWA to help carry out some of these programs. Recent USWA - CWAC programs include hosting the visits to Colorado of trade teams from the wheat-importing countries of Japan, Jordan and Ecuador.
- Membership in the Wheat Export Trade Education Committee (WETEC), which provides information and educational materials to government officials and agencies, Congress and the public about wheat export issues. Many of these issues center around building support for export promotion efforts such as the Foreign Market Development Program (FMD), the Export Enhancement Program (EEP) and the Market Access Program (MAP). USWA conducts activities under the FMD and MAP programs, each of which receives some U.S. government funding.
- Membership in the Wheat Foods Council which is the domestic promotion arm of the U.S. wheat industry. Domestic "food use" accounted for 40 percent of total wheat usage in the 1997-98 marketing year, and was responsible for $1.35 per bushel of the national average price of $3.38 per bushel. Per capita consumption of wheat foods is steadily rising and now stands at 150 pounds - the highest level since 1946.

CWAC also supports wheat research conducted at Colorado State University (CSU). Although research programs do not always lead directly to new sales, such efforts can - and often do - improve the competitiveness of Colorado wheat in the domestic and international marketplace. The research has already led to breakthroughs such as:

- The development of new wheat varieties with improved milling and baking qualities (Akron, Yuma, Lamar);
- The development of winter wheat varieties that are resistant to the Russian wheat aphid, a notorious insect pest (Halt, Yumar, Prowers, Prairie Red);
- The development of new winter wheat varieties that are herbicide resistant to jointed goatgrass, downy brome and volunteer rye;
- The development of new hard red and hard white winter and spring varieties for Colorado.

That's a quick review of the traditional programs that CWAC invests the producer assessment into.

U.S. Wheat Export Market Development

Creating More Conditions to Sell More Wheat

U.S. wheat farmers grow billions of bushels of wheat each year. Americans generally consume less than half of this wheat in the form of cereals, breads, cookies, pastas and other wheat-based foods. During the last decade, about half of the wheat grown in the U.S. has been exported. Clearly, the U.S. wheat industry depends on export sales for much of its profitability. And high-volume U.S. wheat exports have also made the United States the leading wheat exporter in the world.

However, export market development is not an easy task. To develop markets successfully, exporters must know the market, be able to provide technical assistance and customer service to overseas buyers, and make sure that potential users know about the product in the first place. Most farmers and processors have neither the time nor the resources to undertake these tasks themselves.

This is where U.S. Wheat Associates (USWA), the U.S. wheat industry's export market development organization, serves a vital purpose. USWA's mission is simple: to promote U.S. wheat exports. To do this, USWA works in 130 countries to increase wheat consumption and U.S. market share for all classes of U.S. wheat. USWA doesn't buy, sell or process wheat. It devotes its resources exclusively to market development to create the conditions that make it possible to sell more U.S. wheat to other countries.

Why Export?
Some farmers may wonder whether export sales are worth pursuing. A few very important reasons to promote wheat exports are that Americans consume less than half of the wheat our farmers produce, and that *our country's population accounts for less than five percent of the world's potential wheat consumers.* Also, the population of the rest of the world is rapidly growing, and conditions in many foreign countries are creating opportunities to sell more wheat. Of course promoting domestic wheat consumption is important, but overseas market development opportunities also need to be pursued. This makes USWA's mission even more important.

High-volume U.S. wheat exports, along with other agricultural exports, not only benefit farmers, but are crucial to the health of the entire U.S. economy. Wheat is one of the top U.S. agricultural exports, and agricultural exports are one of only a handful of U.S. export products that have a positive trade balance. And high-volume agricultural exports generate jobs. Economists have determined that agricultural exports, including wheat exports, create nearly one million U.S. jobs both on and off the farm and generate $60 billion in support services to harvest, process, package, store, transport and market products. Clearly, wheat and other agricultural exports are value-added exports.

Wheat and agricultural exports are important, but why do we need a promotional organization like USWA when grain companies already sell U.S. wheat to other countries? The answer is simple: grain companies are involved in selling wheat or grain rather than developing markets. They also do not sell U.S. grain exclusively. USWA works to increase overseas sales of wheat, and only wheat that is produced in the United States.

Who Buys U.S. Wheat?
The high volume of wheat exported by the United States makes it the largest exporter of wheat in the world with nearly 100 countries from every part of the globe importing U.S. wheat each year. Top buyers in recent years have included Japan, China, Egypt, the Philippines, Korea, Pakistan, Algeria, Nigeria, Morocco and Taiwan. During the 1990's, improving economies in countries such as the Philippines, Pakistan, Mexico, Thailand and South Africa resulted in increased sales; while other circumstances caused some customers, such as the Former Soviet Union, to decrease imports.

Through its global office network, USWA is constantly monitoring changes in export markets and working with importers and others to take advantage of opportunities in new markets, maintain and increase sales in solid markets and develop new programs as needed. As we approach the 21st century, many countries will be in a position to increase their wheat imports, and USWA will be working to ensure that U.S. wheat is what they buy.

A New Trading Environment
The 1990s have ushered in a new environment for world trade in wheat and other agricultural commodities through completion of the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which resulted in the establishment of the World Trade Organization. The United States and other countries participating in the Uruguay Round agreed to reduce agricultural export subsidies, but are allowed to spend unlimited funds on export promotion. Another significant change in the 1990s is wheat import privatization: countries that once relied on their governments to import wheat are turning that task over to private importers. These changes are expected to expand sales of wheat and other agricultural products - a fact that other exporters such as Canada, Australia and the European Union will not overlook. Prior to the Uruguay Round, some competitor countries were spending twice as much money as the United States on agricultural export market development. This makes programs such as those operated by USWA more important than ever if the United States hopes to benefit from the overall upturn in world agricultural trade.

Moving into the 21st Century
New trade agreements, emerging private-sector economies and diplomatic openings in long-isolated countries are creating a 21st-century trade arena that will differ significantly from the late 20th-century world trade environment. USWA has anticipated these new challenges, and through its strategic planning process is positioning the U.S. wheat industry to take full advantage of future world trade and economic growth.

One of the most important recent changes is the trend in many countries to shift wheat import operations from the government to the private sector. History has shown that when privatization occurs, wheat consumption increases. Given current trends, 80 to 90 percent of the world grain trade may be privatized by the year 2000, compared to 50 percent in the early 1990s. This change will dramatically increase the number of potential wheat buyers, most of whom are unfamiliar with the U.S. grain marketing system, which can seem complex and puzzling to those unfamiliar with it. USWA's global network of overseas offices already in place makes it possible to immediately provide trade servicing and technical assistance to these new private sector importers.

Increasing Exports
The U.S. Department of Agriculture has set a goal of increasing U.S. agricultural exports to $65 billion by the year 2000, nearly double levels during the early 1990s. Meeting this goal will include selling billions of bushels of high-volume U.S. wheat exports, which will not only benefit U.S. wheat farmers, but the entire U.S. economy. Organizations like USWA and the commitment and support of the government, U.S. wheat producers and state wheat organizations like CWAC will help make meeting this goal possible.

Farms, land in farms, and average size, Colorado and U. S. , 1989-98

Year	Colorado			United States		
	Farms 1/	Land in farms	Average size	Farms 1/	Land in farms	Average size
	Number	1,000 Acres	Acres	Number	1,000 Acres	Acres
1989	27,000	33,500	1,241	2,174,520	990,723	456
1990	26,500	33,100	1,249	2,145,820	986,850	460
1991	26,000	32,800	1,262	2,116,760	981,736	464
1992	25,500	32,800	1,286	2,107,840	978,503	464
1993	29,500	32,800	1,112	2,201,590	968,845	440
1994	29,500	32,700	1,108	2,197,690	965,935	440
1995	29,500	32,700	1,108	2,196,400	962,515	438
1996	29,500	32,500	1,101	2,190,500	958,675	437
1997	29,500	32,500	1,101	2,190,510	956,010	436
1998	29,500	32,200	1,092	2,191,510	953,765	435

1/ Places with annual sales of agricultural products of $1,000 or more.

Livestock Operations: Number by type, Colorado, 1990-98

Year	All cattle operations	Beef cow operations 1/	Milk cow operations 1/	Cattle feedlots 1/ 2/	Sheep operations	Hog operations
	Number					
1990	15,000	10,800	1,700	285	2,200	2,000
1991	14,500	10,500	1,400	295	2,000	1,800
1992	14,000	10,500	1,300	295	1,900	1,600
1993	14,000	10,500	1,300	295	1,800	1,600
1994	14,000	10,500	1,100	290	1,600	1,600
1995	14,000	10,000	1,000	290	1,300	1,400
1996	13,700	10,000	900	166	1,600	1,300
1997	14,700	10,200	900	174	1,600	1,200
1998	15,500	11,700	900	166	1,700	1,100

1/ Included in all cattle operations.
2/ Beginning 1996 includes only feedlots with 1,000 head capacity or greater.

Cattle: Percent of operations and inventory by size group, by class, Colorado, 1993-98

Year/Class	Operations having				Inventory on operations having			
	1-49 Head	50-99 Head	100-499 Head	500+ Head	1-49 Head	50-99 Head	100-499 Head	500+ Head
	Percent				Percent			
1993								
All Cattle & Calves	47.9	15.0	29.3	7.8	3.5	4.5	27.0	65.0
Beef Cows	60.0	16.2	21.9	1.9	13.0	14.0	53.0	20.0
1994								
All Cattle & Calves	47.9	14.3	30.0	7.8	3.4	4.6	28.0	64.0
Beef Cows	60.0	16.2	21.9	1.9	13.0	14.0	53.0	20.0
1995								
All Cattle & Calves	47.9	14.3	30.0	7.8	3.0	4.0	28.0	65.0
Beef Cows	58.0	14.0	26.0	2.0	11.0	12.0	57.0	20.0
1996								
All Cattle & Calves	48.9	13.1	30.0	8.0	3.2	3.8	29.0	64.0
Beef Cows	57.0	15.0	25.5	2.5	11.0	12.0	54.0	21.0
1997								
All Cattle & Calves	50.3	14.3	28.6	6.8	4.0	4.3	28.0	63.7
Beef Cows	56.8	16.7	24.0	2.5	11.0	13.0	56.0	22.0
1998								
All Cattle & Calves	52.2	16.8	23.9	7.1	4.6	5.6	24.0	65.8
Beef Cows	61.6	16.2	20.1	2.1	14.0	15.0	50.0	21.0

1/ Not estimated.